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Crime & Safety

Shared from New York City, NY

# Shootings Up 166 Percent In NYC, New NYPD Data Shows

Citywide crime statistics for August released Wednesday show a shooting spike, 53 murders, as well as sustained police anti-gun arrests.

By Matt Troutman, Patch Staff   
Sep 2, 2020 11:35 am ET

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Citywide crime statistics for August released Wednesday show a shooting spike, 53 murders, as well as sustained police anti-gun arrests. (David Allen/Patch)

**NEW YORK CITY** — Violence lingered in the air and bullets rained over New York City in August, according to newly-released crime statistics.

Shootings jumped 166 percent compared to August last year, the NYPD data shows. The incidents — 242 of them — ticked up in every borough but Staten Island, police said.

Murders, whether by gun or not, numbered 53 — a 47 percent increase from last August, police said. They're up 34 percent as a whole this year, according to data.

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Mayor Bill de Blasio, when asked Wednesday about the numbers, returned to his refrain that a "perfect storm" of circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic is to blame for the violence surge. He expressed confidence that growing cooperation between communities and NYPD will tamp down the spike, but warned it may take time.

"We're not going to see an overnight turnaround," he said.

The crime statistics do show a potentially-positive anti-violence measurement — gun arrests in August increased to 359 after a dip amid the pandemic and widespread protests over police brutality. The level is roughly equal to the number of gun arrests in August last year.

And crime overall between August 2019 and August 2020 actually held steady, with total incidents for both months at about 9,000 each. That's because some crimes like grand larcenies and rapes dipped while others like shootings spiked.

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Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 12:00 PM  
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Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 6:00 PM  
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Mon, Sep 28, 2020 at 7:00 PM

**WEBINAR: Quarterly Investment Outlook**

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM

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## Neighbor Posts

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## Local Question

**Nanci Zimmerman**, Neighbor

Upper East Side, NY | 1d

I have not been following NY State politics as closely as I should, so when I recently saw posters in my neighborhood for Judith Graham running for State Assembly, I wondered who she was and what party she is affiliated with. This information is nowhere on her many posters.

[Read more](#)

Thank (1) Reply (15) Share

**Local Question****Charlotte mueller**, Neighbor

Upper East Side, NY | 1d

I just went to far Rockaway by ferry. A delightful trip. To my dismay there are NO portopotties at the station. When is the parks department going to look after this necessity for travelers who are waiting to board or those who have just arrived. Many thanks for your help.

Thank (1) Reply (7) Share

**Chuck Klemballa**, Neighbor

Upper East Side, NY | 2d

Sad to say that Writing Room will be closing on Sunday, 9/27. Rent negotiations failed and lack of outdoor space due to bus stop too much to overcome. Had my last happy hours oysters last evening.

Thank (2) Reply (3) Share

**Paula G**, Neighbor

Upper East Side, NY | 1d | Edited

Overwhelmed by trash along East River north of Carl Schurz? Meet me Monday mornings@10 on Ferry Pier. Bring trash BAG Gloves. Smile like no one can see you!

Thank (4) Reply (3) Share

**Local Question****Bunny Blei**, Neighbor

Upper East Side, NY | 3d

I was at TJMax and saw men working at the former Food Emporiums  
Anyone know if Trader Joe's is really coming.

Thank (3) Reply (8) Share

**richard barr**, Neighbor

Upper East Side, NY | 4d

My cohelper moved. and could not take her well caredfor , 3 lovely & healthy,immunized cats with her. They are indoor/outdoor, shorthaired, neuterd,well behaved and need a new home. They are good 'mousers' as well and like leftovers. They are currently housed in NJ but they can be brought to

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#### Local Question



**Nanci Zimmerman**, Neighbor

Upper East Side, NY | 5d

Hi,

I'd love to get in touch with Dolly who sells the Challah bread but I don't use Instagram. Is there another way I might get in touch to order a bread? Thanks,

 Thank  Reply (3)  Share



**Martin Smith**, Neighbor

Upper East Side, NY | 6d

I am a tenant at 440 East 81st Street. I have been having a mouse problem--currently--and on and off over time. The building doesn't seem to know how to correct this issue. I have left a message with the NYC Dept of Health--contacted the landlord's office and had hoped the super could fix the

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**Jeffrey Nogee**, Neighbor

Upper East Side, NY | 6d

Congratulations to NYC DOT. The new bike lane on East 62nd between First and York is now up and traffic is not running. By taking away the left lane on a main access to the FDR Drive and the east side exit to the 59th Street Bridge traffic backs up from York all the way onto the Bridge even early

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#### Local Question



**Katie K**, Neighbor

Upper East Side, NY | Sep 20

What are your favorite Chinese take out spots in the neighborhood?

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# Shootings Up 166 Percent In NYC, New NYPD Data Shows

**Upper East Side Patch**  
25d

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**NEW YORK CITY** — Violence lingered in the air and bullets rained over New York City in August, according to newly-released crime statistics. Shootings jumped 166 percent compared to August last year, the NYPD data shows. The incidents — 242 of them — ticked up in every borough but Staten Island, police said.

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Bill De Blasio

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## Staff, Visitors Brought Coronavirus To Nursing Homes: DOH Report

Data says 37,500 nursing home staff members, 1 in 4 of 158,000 nursing home workers in NY — were infected with COVID between March and June.

By Lisa Finn, Patch Staff 

Jul 6, 2020 9:02 pm ET | Updated Jul 6, 2020 9:14 pm ET

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Peconic Landing in Greenport was one of the many nursing homes in New York State hit hard by the coronavirus. (Lisa Finn.)

**SUFFOLK COUNTY, NY — Staff and visitors brought the coronavirus into nursing homes across New York State, a new report by the Department of Health concluded.**

According to the report, "Factors Associated with Nursing Home Infections and Fatalities in New York State During the COVID-19 Global Health Crisis," which was released on Monday, several factors were clear after examining the data — and they indicated that the spread of coronavirus was related to staff or visitors, not patients transferred from hospitals or other facilities. ➤

At Peconic Landing in Greenport, for example, a **per diem employee** tested positive for the coronavirus in March.

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About 6,432 coronavirus deaths have been reported in nursing homes in New York, or 21 percent of the total number of deaths, the report said.

"Employee infections were related to the larger community spread and employee transmission has the strongest correlation to nursing home fatalities," the DOH report said.

According to data submitted by nursing homes, 37,500 nursing home staff members — one in four of the state's approximately 158,000 nursing home workers — were infected with COVID-19 between March and early June 2020, the study said.

The data also suggests that nursing home quality and admissions policies were not a factor in mortality from COVID.

"Comparing nursing home policies and mortality rate timelines suggests COVID-19 transmission is strongly correlated to nursing home employees entering the facility. Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, the consensus among public health experts suggested asymptomatic people did not spread the disease and asymptomatic positive or presumed positive employees were allowed to continue to work," the report said. "Later in the crisis, public health experts were forced to reverse this position as it became clear from the data that asymptomatic people could transmit the disease."

NYSDOH also analyzed the timing of the COVID-positive staff infections and the timing of nursing home deaths, the study said. "Based on published data, the average length of time between COVID-19 infections to death is between 18 to 25 days. Therefore, the link between the timing of staff infection and nursing home mortality is supported by the fact that the peak number of nursing home staff reported COVID-19 symptoms on March 16, 2020 — 23 days prior to the date of the peak nursing home fatalities, which occurred on April 8, 2020. It is likely that thousands of employees who were infected in mid-

March transmitted the virus unknowingly — through no fault of their own — while working, which then led to resident infection."

In addition, the report said, independent testing done by BioReference in May showed 29 percent of nursing home employees surveyed had COVID antibodies.

"Extrapolating the data means that approximately one in three nursing home workers were infected," the report said. "Such a high percentage of employees having at one time been positive for COVID-19 suggests a strong correlation to contributing to the spread to patients. Our analysis brings to the forefront the possibility of transmission from staff as an important mode of transmission. If states had accurate information about COVID transmission at an earlier time and had the testing capacity to detect asymptomatic but infected individuals, other procedures might have been taken," the report said.

For example, all asymptomatic employees should have been barred from facilities as if they were symptomatic, which is the current policy, the report said. If widespread testing was available earlier, all employees could have been tested earlier, the report concluded.

Some have protested that those with coronavirus should not have been admitted, or re-admitted, to nursing homes, and questioned if that might have caused the spike in deaths; the report, however, refuted those concerns.

Speaking on the report at a press briefing Monday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said visitors were not initially barred from nursing homes; that did not happen until mid-March, he said. "By that time, the virus was in the nursing homes," he said. "At that time we weren't testing anybody, testing was just starting and if you look at when the visitors were allowed in, up until about mid March the spike in the nursing homes was seven days, 14 days after that," Cuomo said. "The report said between family coming in and the staff — they were the transporters of the virus."

He added that from "Day 1, we all knew that nursing homes were the most vulnerable place," which is why, Cuomo said, he made the decision to ban visitors despite how difficult it was for seniors in nursing homes not to see loved ones for months.





The report concluded that the issues faced are national issues that must be addressed through, for example, better training of staff, enhanced and rapid testing, and better coordination with other healthcare facilities. "Nursing homes and other congregate settings will pose a continued risk for the coronavirus or another public health threat in the future that attacks older adults," the report said.

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# Staff, Visitors Brought Coronavirus To Nursing Homes: DOH Report



Mount Vernon Patch  
07-07

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**SUFFOLK COUNTY, NY** — Staff and visitors brought the coronavirus into nursing homes across New York State, a new report by the Department of Health concluded. According to the report, 'Factors Associated with Nursing Home Infections and Fatalities in New York State During the COVID-19 Global Health Crisis,' which was released on Monday, several factors were clear after examining the data — and they indicated that the spread of coronavirus was related to staff or visitors, not patients transferred from hospitals or other facilities.

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Andrew Cuomo

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CBS New York | 1d



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...

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**Coronavirus Spikes; Fatal U-Turn; Deer Kills Woman**

HUDSON VALLEY, NY – There was a lot of news over the past week in the Hudson Valley. In case you missed any of it, here is a roundup of the most-read articles to catch you up.

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CBS New York

📍 Manhattan, NY

6h

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NEWS10 ABC

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💬 2

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marylandmatters.org

5h

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kulturehub.com

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94.3 The Point

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4h

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📍 New York, NY | 4h


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New York, NY | Middletown Press | 7h

**Central Park carriage horses back on the job after 6 months**

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New York, NY | NY Daily News | 7h

**We ain't afraid of no COVID: Haunted houses opening with precautions to leave scary reality at the door**

As if the reality of 2020 isn't scary enough. New Yorkers — or gluttons for punishment — who haven't had...

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Hudson Valley Post  
📍 New York, NY | 6h


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**Is New York the Safest State For Reopening Schools?**

This school year is much different than others due to COVID-19. Some students are in a classroom, while...

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New York, NY | Gothamist.com | 4h

**Coronavirus Updates: Cuomo To Launch New State Task Force Enforcing Rules In Hotspots**

This is our daily update of breaking COVID-19 news for Sunday, October 4th, 2020. Previous daily updates...

💬 5

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New York, NY | abc7ny.com | 6h

**Navy veteran surprised with cards from around the world marking her 99th birthday**

LONG ISLAND, New York (WABC) -- A Navy veteran on Long Island received quite the surprise on her 99th...

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Schools

## Teachers Denounce Hunter Schools' Reopening Plan At Protest

Protesting staff said the school, which is run by CUNY, is the only one in the city that won't reopen with COVID-19 testing and inspections.

By Nick Garber, Patch Staff 

Sep 16, 2020 6:38 pm ET | Updated Sep 16, 2020 9:58 pm ET


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Barbara Bowen, chair of the CUNY Professional Staff Congress, speaks at a protest against the Hunter College Campus Schools' reopening plan, Sept. 16, 2020. (Nick Garber/Patch)



UPPER EAST SIDE, NY — Teachers and parents denounced the Hunter College Campus Schools' reopening plan in a protest Wednesday outside the fortresslike school building, 



alleging that administrators will put staff at risk by refusing to include coronavirus safety measures in place at every other school in the city.

Staff say that Hunter will be the only public school in New York City to reopen for in-person classes next week without random coronavirus testing of students and teachers, inspections of ventilation systems in each room and contact tracing of confirmed COVID-19 cases.

They say administrators have claimed the school is exempt from the citywide reopening standards **announced in a deal with the United Federation of Teachers** this month because the K-12 school, affiliated with Hunter College, is run by CUNY, rather than the Department of Education — the only school in the city with such an arrangement.

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Social studies teacher and **union** vice-chair Irving Kagan said teachers have tried since June to be included in the decision-making process leading up to the Sept. 21 reopening, as was **required by Gov. Andrew Cuomo**, only to be stonewalled by administrators. The plan presented to staff last month included no input from teachers, Kagan said.



A teacher protests Hunter College Campus Schools' planned reopening outside its Upper East Side building, Sept. 16, 2020. (Nick Garber/Patch)

Staff were taken aback by the details of the plan, which lacked commitments to test, contact trace, conduct room-by-room ventilation inspections and limit class sizes to 12 students, among other city standards.

"We were astonished when we got a response back saying: CUNY does one thing, DOE does another thing, they're two different organizations," Kagan said, referring to a Sept. 8 email from Campus Schools Director Lisa Siegmann, which was shared with Patch.

In particular, staff are raising alarms about the Hunter building, built to resemble an armory and known as "the brick prison" for its lack of windows. The building has been plagued by ventilation problems since long before COVID-19, but staff say administrators refused their requests to hire an independent inspector to examine the system, as the city has done for roughly 1,500 school buildings.

Instead, teachers say, the school only provided a memo prepared by a contractor who had been hired to replace the school's faulty HVAC system over the summer, which deemed the building safe. Staff commissioned **their own critical review** of the school's report, calling it light on details and noting that it fails to mention the COVID-19 pandemic at all.

Barbara Bowen, President of the CUNY staff union, said at Wednesday's protest that Hunter President Jennifer Raab informed staff the previous day that an independent inspector hired by the union would not be allowed into the school building.

A majority of Hunter teachers have signed onto a list of demands calling on the school to abide by the DOE standards, math teacher and union chapter chair Tina Moore said Wednesday. A similar petition circulated by Hunter parent Juliana Sohn and sent to Raab Wednesday garnered 392 signatures.



Hunter social studies teacher and union vice-chair Irving Kagan speaks at a protest against the school's reopening plan, Sept. 16, 2020. (Nick Garber/Patch)

"We have argued that school start remotely so that CUNY can prioritize the students' and the teachers' health," Moore said. "It simply has not shown the evidence that the facilities that they propose to use are properly ventilated."

In a statement, Hunter spokesperson Deborah Raskin defended the reopening plan and said that "Hunter College and CUNY would never put the safety of our faculty, staff or students in jeopardy."

To reduce density in the main building, some students will attend class at Hunter's Silberman School of Social Work in East Harlem, Raskin said. She said the school will mandate social distancing, conduct daily health screenings and add hand sanitizing stations.

Raskin said the school had also installed HEPA filters in classrooms in both buildings, as well as UV lights and MERV-13 filters.

School staff, though, say they've been presented with no evidence that HEPA filters were installed — only an **air purifier** that was deemed inadequate by Jean Grassman, a CUNY professor and occupational health expert brought on by the staff union.

Kagan, who graduated from Hunter himself before returning as a teacher, said it feels like administrators are "sending us out to fly this airplane they're building even as we speak."

"We don't even recognize the school that we have labored at for 10, or 20, or 30 years," he said.

**Previous coverage:** [Hunter College Teachers Say School Can't Reopen Safely](#)






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News Break > New York State > New York > Teachers Denounce Hunter Schools' Reopen...

# Teachers Denounce Hunter Schools' Reopening Plan At Protest



Upper East Side Patch  
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UPPER EAST SIDE, NY — Teachers and parents denounced the Hunter College Campus Schools' reopening plan in a protest Wednesday outside the fortresslike school building, alleging that administrators will put staff at risk by refusing to include coronavirus safety measures in place at every other school in the city. Staff...

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Shared from New Rochelle, NY

## Walmart, Stop & Shop: July 4 Grocery Store Hours In Hudson Valley

Find out if your local grocery store is open before heading out to shop on Independence Day.

By Michael Woyton, Patch Staff 

Jul 1, 2020 4:59 pm ET

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Here are some of the grocery stores that will be open on Independence Day. (Lorraine Swanson/Patch)

HUDSON VALLEY, NY — The Fourth of July holiday won't be the same amid the coronavirus pandemic, but families and friends still able to gather and celebrate the day may do so, including those in the Hudson Valley.

And it's almost inevitable that a supply of condiments, hot dogs, potato chips and other July 4 classics will be forgotten on the day. Luckily, the majority of grocery stores will still be open to help out.

Here are the grocery stores that will be open on the Fourth of July in the Hudson Valley, along with a couple of those that won't.



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Some grocery stores are still operating under special coronavirus-related hours, so make sure to double-check with your neighborhood location.

**ALDI:** ALDI's will be open on July 4, but has special holiday hours for the day. You'll want to check with your local store.

**BJ's:** BJ's will remain open on Independence Day. Check with your store for holiday hours.

**Costco:** All Costco locations are closed on July 4.

**Fairway:** Fairway Markets will be open July 4. Check with your local store for hours.

**Dollar General:** Dollar General is open on Independence Day, but check with your local store for possible adjusted hours.

**Sam's Club:** Sam's Club locations will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Fourth of July.

**ShopRite:** ShopRite locations will be open on Independence Day. Check with your store for the hours.

**Stop & Shop:** Stop & Shop will be open for regular hours on July 4 from 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Target:** Target locations are open on Independence Day in 2020. Store hours will depend on your neighborhood location.

**Trader Joe's:** All stores will be closed on July 4.

**Walmart:** Walmart stores will be open for regular local hours on Independence Day.

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# Walmart, Stop & Shop: July 4 Grocery Store Hours In Hudson Valley



**Mount Vernon Patch**  
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Schools

## Wantagh High School Named 2020 National Blue Ribbon School

The school will receive an engraved plaque and a Blue Ribbon flag. An award ceremony is scheduled for Nov. 5-6 in National Harbor, Maryland.

By Daniel Hampton, Patch Staff   
Sep 24, 2020 5:16 pm ET

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Wantagh High School was recognized as a 2020 National Blue Ribbon School, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced Thursday. (Daniel Hampton/Patch)

WANTAGH, NY — Wantagh High School has been recognized as a 2020 National Blue Ribbon School for the second time. U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos made the announcement Thursday.

Wantagh High School was one of the early honorees in the 38-year-old program as a 1997-98 Blue Ribbon School.

Superintendent John McNamara said he couldn't be more proud of the faculty, staff and students.

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"The National Blue Ribbon Schools program recognition is a fine testament to the relentless work, exemplary commitment and community collaboration in ensuring that students graduate ready to embrace 21st century learning and become productive members of society," he said in a news release.

The Blue Ribbon program is part of a larger effort to identify schools that have educational programs that demonstrate effective school leadership and instructional practices. Wantagh High School was nominated by state officials as an Exemplary High Performing School for its performance in reading/ English language arts and mathematics, as well as other academic indicators such as attendance, graduation rate, state assessment and participation rates.

"We are so proud of the students, teachers and administrators at Wantagh High School for once again being awarded the National Blue Ribbon of Excellence," Marc Ferris, assistant superintendent for instruction said in a statement. "Wantagh High School is a caring, safe and academically outstanding learning environment for our students because of the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our teachers and staff fortunate to be a part of such an outstanding learning community."



Wantagh High School will receive an engraved plaque and a Blue Ribbon flag. The award ceremony is scheduled for Nov. 5-6 in National Harbor, Maryland.

Principal Paul Guzzone said the designation places Wantagh High School on the list of the nation's most prestigious schools.

"I am extremely proud and honored to lead this school community which prioritizes excellence in education and affords students opportunities to succeed in all areas. I join the community in celebrating this momentous achievement," he said.






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# Wantagh High School Named 2020 National Blue Ribbon School



Wantagh-Seafood Patch

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